

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/715,081  
Attorney Docket No.: 001542

single predetermined manufacturing block together with a printed wiring board having a different type within the printed wiring boards scheduled to be manufactured on the basis of the manufacturing schedule data stored in said schedule data storage unit;

a condition data storage unit storing manufacturing condition data for laying out printed wiring boards of different types on a single predetermined manufacturing block;

a grouping unit grouping each fractional printed wiring board detected by said detecting unit into any of groups according to the manufacturing condition data stored in said condition data storage unit; and

a determining unit determining, per group, layout to at least one predetermined manufacturing block of the fractional printed wiring board.

9. (Twice Amended) A manufacturing method for manufacturing printed wiring boards of plural types, said printed wiring boards scheduled to be manufactured are laid out on at least one predetermined manufacturing block, comprising:

reading manufacturing schedule data including printed wiring board data including each type of the printed wiring boards and the number of each of the printed wiring boards scheduled to be manufactured;

detecting a fractional printed wiring board which should be laid out to a single predetermined manufacturing block together with a printed wiring board having a different type within the printed wiring boards scheduled to be manufactured on the basis of the manufacturing schedule data;

reading a manufacturing condition data for laying out printed wiring boards of different types

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on a single predetermined manufacturing block;

grouping each detected fractional printed wiring board into any of groups according to the manufacturing condition data; and

determining, per group, layout to at least one predetermined manufacturing block of the fractional printed wiring board.